

Response Under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure
Examining Group 2100
Application No. 09/713,733
Paper Dated: June 16, 2005
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of March 25, 2005
Attorney Docket No. 2942-991842

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 25, 2005 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. The present Amendment modifies claims 1, 2, 11, 14, 23, 25, 30 and 32-34 and adds new claims 40-52 in accordance with the originally-filed specification. In addition, the present Amendment cancels claims 3-10, 13, 17, 19, 21, 22, 24, 31 and 37-39. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 20, 23, 25-30, 32-36 and 40-52 are pending in this application, of which claims 1, 30 and 40 are in independent form.

Attached for the Examiner's convenience is a chart that lists the new claim numbers and their dependencies, as well as the limitations that exist in each new claim with respect to the previously-filed claims. This chart provides the Examiner with a road map as to how the new claims compare to the previously-filed claims.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that the subject matter of claims 22-25 and 31-36 define over the prior art of record. In particular, the Examiner indicates that claims 22-25 and 31-36 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but that these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. For the Examiner's information, each of independent claims 1, 30 and 40 incorporate this allowable subject matter. The dependencies of the remaining claims have been modified so that they depend from and further limit the allowable independent claims.

Independent claim 1 includes the allowable subject matter of claims 1, 21 and 22. Dependent claim 2, which depends from allowable independent claim 1, includes the subject matter of old claims 2-10. Claims 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 20, 23 and 26-29 all depend directly or indirectly from and add further limitations to allowable independent claim 1, and are thus allowable as well.

Dependent claim 30 has been modified into an independent claim, including the limitations of claims 1, 30 and 31. Claims 32-36 all depend either directly or indirectly from and add further limitations to allowable independent claim 30, and are therefore likewise allowable.

New independent claim 40 includes limitations of old claims 1, 21 and 24.

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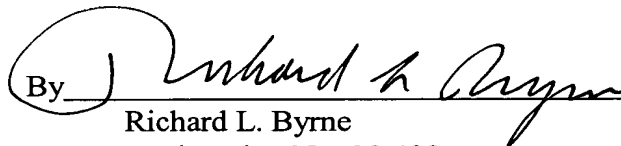
Dependent claims 41-52 depend directly or indirectly from and add further limitations to independent claim 40, and are also in allowable form. It should also be noted that dependent claims 41-52 mirror the dependent claim set of amended independent claim 1.

In summary, and as illustrated in the attached chart, the total number of claims in the allowable claim set is 34, with a total of three independent claims. Therefore, for all the above reasons, all of claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 20, 23, 25-30, 32-36 and 40-52 are believed to be in allowable form.

Reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 14-16, 18, 20, 23, 25-30, 32-36 and 40-52 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment

Claim Number	Combination of Old Claims:	Depends from:
1	1 + 21 + 22	<i>Independent</i>
2	2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10	1
11		2
12		1
14		1
15		14
16		14
18		1
20		1
23		1
25		40
26		1
27		1
28		1
29		28
30	1 + 30 + 31	<i>Independent</i>
32		30
33		30
34		30
35		34
36		34
40	1 + 21 + 24	<i>Independent</i>
41	2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6 + 7 + 8 + 9 + 10	40
42	11	41
43	12	40
44	14	40
45	15	44
46	16	44
47	18	40
48	20	40
49	26	40
50	27	40
51	28	40
52	29	51
Total Number of Claims = 34		Total Number of Independent Claims = 3